IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2-57 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue unclaimed subject matter in related continuing or divisional applications.

Claim 1 (original) A method of selecting a set of tag nucleic acids with minimal cross hybridization to a nucleic acid, said method comprising providing a list of tag nucleic acids, and excluding nucleic acids from the list of tag nucleic acids which cross hybridize to a single complementary nucleic acid under stringent conditions, thereby providing a set of selected tag nucleic acids with minimal cross hybridization to the nucleic acid.

of Applicant's right to the subject matter thereof.

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Claims 2-57 (canceled)